



Building food safety risk assessment capacity in 2030: A vision

*A report by the
Advisory Forum Discussion Group on Capacity Building
at the 68th EFSA Advisory Forum meeting in Sofia, Bulgaria*

June 6-7, 2018

Terms of Reference and current members organisations

ToR

- To support the AF in developing a common European strategy for capacity building,
- To take into consideration capacity building activities by other international RA organisations within and outside the EFSA network,
- To develop realistic ideas about how to join forces, leverage expertise and achieve synergies in the area of capacity building.

Current member organisations and their representatives:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| ➤ AECOSAN, Spain | Ana Canals |
| ➤ ASAE, Portugal | Fernanda Alvarrão |
| ➤ BfR, Germany | Reiner Wittkowski (Chair), Nicole Gollnick |
| ➤ EFSA | Jeff Moon |
| ➤ NVWA, The Netherlands | Koen Wienk |
| ➤ VKM, Norway | Danica Grahek-Ogden |
| ➤ ANSES, France | Salma Elreedy |
| ➤ FSAI, Ireland | Pamela Byrne |

AFDG on CB reflection paper (May 2018)

Objectives

A)

- To portray the **current situation in Europe** with regards to food safety risk assessment capacity building,
- To outline the **long-term vision of the AFDG on CB** for a strengthened risk assessment capacity in Europe,
- To present a **summary of ideas on how to reach the long-term goal** by implementing intermediate steps (Mid-term-, and short-term goals).

B)

- To provide a **basis for discussion** for the EFSA Advisory Forum (AF) to initiate the next phase of activities.

The vision: Strengthened RA capacity in the EU and beyond (I)

Long-term goals: The vision for 2030

- Food safety risk assessment **degree programmes** are established.
 - Collaboration of RA institutions with academia
 - Centres of Excellence for food safety risk assessment
 - Blended-learning concept
 - Sustainable long-term funding by EU (plus tuition)

Mid-term goals: Building the sustainable EU capacity building structure

- A European *risk assessment label* is established (2025).
 - *RA label* courses are held by **accredited** member state RA institutions, EFSA, universities or other competent partners (other EU-Agencies, international organisations).
 - Funding through EU (plus tuition)

The vision: Strengthened RA capacity in the EU and beyond (II)

Short-term goals: First steps

Benefits of a joint approach

EU food safety risk assessment institutions and EFSA can jointly

- Further develop the currently existing curricula,
- Transform part of the applicable classroom teaching material into virtual course material with support of E-learning specialists
 - Reduction of need for physical courses
- Supervise virtual course participants
- All risk assessment institutions can participate actively (Tutors)

Proposed activities and time line until June 2019 (I)

June 2018

- Install a standing working group (Members should ideally work actively in CB)

Until November 2018

- Identify and liaise with contact persons/groups at **EU-Agencies and international organisations**
 - Exchange of information and experiences in creating capacity building tools (physical, virtual),
 - Collect information about available knowledge exchange platforms (databases),
 - Identify areas where to join forces because of similar training objectives.
- Identify and liaise with contact persons/groups at **EU risk assessment institutions and EFSA**
 - Collect information about examples where MS RA institutions joined forces in international capacity building.
- Prepare an overview of selected practice examples for existing blended learning courses in the field of food safety and related areas (e.g. public health).

November 2018

- Report to EFSA 70th Advisory Forum meeting in Vienna

Proposed activities and time line until June 2019 (II)

Until February 2019

- Develop criteria for a database with data on:
 - Available training courses offered by risk assessment institutions of MS and EFSA,
 - Potential tutors for training courses.
- Investigate tools (e.g. available EFSA tools) that could be used to implement such a database. Consider that such a database should be user-friendly and easy to maintain.

February 2019

- Report to EFSA Focal Points

Until June 2019

- Begin to build the database (see above)
- Prepare a structure for an interactive, easy to use, open access **web portal** that maps all available training offers by EU and MS risk assessment and academic institutions that are open to an international audience.
- Establish ways of sustainable funding. Could this web portal be hosted by DG SANTE, by EFSA or by one of the national risk assessment institutions?
- Prepare the strategy for lobbying for the mid-term and long-term activities.

Proposed activities and time line until June 2019 (III)

After June 2019

- Consider the data and information collected since June 2018 to start developing a first draft for a modular master's degree curriculum (Note that the goal is to implement it by 2030)
- Already existing and newly developed capacity building measures should be assessed in the light of being potential building blocks for a master's degree programme.
- Identify and liaise with contact persons/groups at **European Universities** which could become strategic partners in implementing risk assessment label courses and which have the potential to become "Centres of excellence for food safety risk assessment"

Feedback requested

Feedback 1

- Do you agree with the overall vision of the AFDG on CB? **If yes...**

Feedback 2

- Do you follow the suggestion to install a standing CB working group?

Feedback 3

- Which countries are interested in participating in the working group?
 - MS representatives to the working group shall be involved in risk assessment capacity building of their own institutions

Feedback 4

- How could administrative support to the working group be realised?
 - EFSA?
 - Member states institution (e.g. institution chairing the working group)?
 - Both?

Feedback 5

- **We are interested in your overall feedback on the reflection paper and the topic in general. Please provide further ideas and suggestions until July 15, 2018 to afsecretariat@efsa.europa.eu.**